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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 19 January 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the letter dated 11 January 1995 from the Muslim representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to you transmitting the "Declaration on the Prevention of Genocide against Bosniacs and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted by the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 December 1994" (A/49/826-S/1995/29), and upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

The Declaration contains a series of erroneous assertions and unfounded allegations about the nature and the causes of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the explicit intent of accusing the Serbs and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for the alleged aggression and atrocities in this former Yugoslav republic.

However, there is a growing awareness in the international community that the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not a case of aggression but a civil war among its three constituent peoples. That has been confirmed by Lord Carrington, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, former Secretary of State of the United States of America James Baker and others.

It is known that the soldiers of the former Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), who were nationals of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, were withdrawn from Bosnia and Herzegovina in May 1992. That has been confirmed in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council.

The Serbs can never be labelled as aggressors because they have lived in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina for centuries and have owned 64 per cent of its land. Following the one-sided and unconstitutional secession of the

Muslims and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Serbs, as a constituent people of this former Yugoslav republic, were forced to fight for survival and protection of their cultural identity and the right to self-determination. Opposed to the secession, they have been striving to safeguard constitutional order and the rule of law, embracing a democratic solution to the crisis based on the fundamental right to equality among all constituent peoples, which the representatives of Croats and Muslims refused to accept.

The so-called Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina represents only the Croats and Muslims. From the Declaration it is evident that the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina do not exist for this "Parliament".

The allegations contained in the Declaration to the effect that the victims of the civil war were only the Croats and Muslims are absurd, to say the least. What, in the eyes of the Muslim-Croat Parliament, do the more than 100,000 Serbs that lost their lives in the civil war in Bosnia and Herzegovina represent? The Muslim representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina informed the President of the Security Council about this in his letter of 22 December 1994 (S/1994/1444).

The Declaration alleges that the Croats and Muslims have been detained in 150 camps. On the other hand, the Declaration makes no mention whatsoever about 152 camps run by the Croat-Muslim authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina where the Serbs have been detained. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia transmitted to the Secretary-General the evidence of the above in its fourth report on the war crimes committed in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (A/49/801-S/1994/1436).

The international community and its members have legal, political and, above all, moral responsibility to undertake all measures with a view to preventing genocide and punishing all those who perpetrate it. The question is why the Declaration of the Muslim-Croat Parliament insists on condemning the alleged genocide committed only against the Croats and the Muslims instead of seeking that all instances of genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina be condemned and that its perpetrators punished, regardless of their nationality.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.